

Message Text

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SUBJ: OFFICIAL VISIT OF VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER

1. SUMMARY: VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER SIMON ALBERTO CONSALVI ARRIVED IN LIMA ON AUG 23 FOR A 3-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT THAT INCLUDED CALLS ON PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ AND CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT HAYA DE LA TORRE. CONSALVI ALSO HELD A WORKING MEETING WITH THE MEMBERS OF ANDEAN PACT EXECUTIVE, ISSUED A JOINT DECLARATION WITH HIS PERUVIAN COUNTERPART, AND APPEARED ON THE POPULAR TV PROGRAM "CONTACTO DIRECTO." IN VARIOUS FORA HIS REMARKS AND THOSE OF HIS HOST, FONMIN DE LA PUENTE, WERE IMPLICITLY CRITICAL OF THE US AND EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION. END SUMMARY.

2. IN AN AIRPORT ARRIVAL STATEMENT, DR. CONSALVI HAILED THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS AND EXPRESSED VENEZUELA'S HOPE THAT ALL PERUVIANS ARE ABLE TO LIVE UP TO THE CHALLENGE THAT FACES THEM, FOR THE SAKE OF PERU IN PARTICULAR AND LATIN AMERICA IN GENERAL. IN RESPONSE TO A JOURNALIST'S QUESTION, CONSALVI CHARACTERIZED ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT HAYA DE LA TORRE AS "ONE OF THE GREAT LEADERS OF LATIN AMERICA... WHO HAS HAD GREAT INFLUENCE IN (VENEZUELAN) POLITICAL THINKING IN
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THE LAST 40 YEARS."

3. IN HIS VISIT WITH HAYA DE LA TORRE ON AUG 24, CONSALVI RELAYED PRESIDENT PEREZ' GREETINGS AND EXPRESSED VENEZUELA'S ADMIRATION FOR HAYA'S ROLE AS PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY. HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTERWARD THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS COMPLETE CONFIDENCE THAT THE RETORNO PROCESS WILL BE CARRIED OUT QUICKLY AND SUCCESSFULLY.

4. ON THE PROTOCOL SIDE, CONSALVI WAS DECLARED AN HONORED GUEST BY LIMA'S MAYOR AND WAS FETED AND DECORATED BY FONMIN DE LA PUENTE AT TORRE TAGLE. IN HIS REMARKS, DE LA PUENTE DECLARED

THAT THERE EXISTS AN "OPEN CONTRADICTION" BETWEEN A HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY AND GROWING COMMERCIAL PROTECTIONISM, AND THAT INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES CANNOT IGNORE THE "PROFOUNDLY DISCRIMINATORY" TREATMENT THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE SUFFERING AT THEIR HANDS. HE ADDED THAT IN THIS CONTEXT "THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ESSENCE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS ACQUIRES OBVIOUS LIMITATIONS," ESPECIALLY IN COUNTRIES LIKE PERU WHERE A RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC PRACTICES IS BEING CARRIED OUT.

5. IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE SIGNED ON AUG 24 (TEXT BEING POUCHED TO DEPT ARA/AND/P AND CARACAS), BOTH GOVERNMENTS:

-- AGREED TO JOIN FORCES TO TRY TO ELIMINATE PROTECTIONIST PRACTICES BY INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES THAT CONTRADICT THE PRINCIPLES INSPIRED BY THE CHARTER ON THE ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES AND THE UN ACTION PROGRAM AND DECLARATION ON THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (NIEO);

--RATIFIED THE INALIENABLE RIGHT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO FULL AND COMPLETE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN ORDER TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT AND THE WELFARE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEIR PEOPLE WITHOUT FOREIGN INTERFERENCE;

--EXPRESSED THEIR DEEP CONCERN OVER RESTRICTIVE MEASURES RELATIVE TO THE IMPORTATION OF COPPER AND SUGAR;

--REAFFIRMED THE FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE OF ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND COOPERATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND INTENSIFY EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT;

--REITERATED BOTH COUNTRIES' FIRM DETERMINATION TO UNIFY AND FORTIFY EVEN MORE GROUP OF 77 AND WORK FOR THE PROMPT ESTABLISHMENT OF NIEO;

--EXPRESSED THEIR DEEP CONCERN FOR NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND THE GROWING VOLUME OF THE WORLD'S HUMAN AND MATERIAL RESOURCES DEDICATED TO THE PURCHASE OF ARMS; AND

--PLEDGED TO WORK TOWARD CONVENTIONAL ARMS LIMITATION IN LATIN AMERICA IN THE SPIRIT OF THE DECLARATION OF AYACUCHO AND TO SUPPORT THE MEXICO MEETING ON ARMS LIMITATIONS.

6. CONSALVI'S REMARKS AT THE SIGNING CEREMONY WERE EVEN MORE BLUNTLY CRITICAL OF THE PRACTICES OF INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. "WE ENCOUNTER DAY AFTER DAY," HE SAID, "THE INTRANSIGENCIES OF THE GREAT POWERS, WHO PRETEND TO ARTIFICIALLY PROLONG THE

(ECONOMIC) ORDER ESTABLISHED UNILATERALLY BY THEM, AN ORDER WHICH HAS PREVAILED AND BEEN FED BY OUR CHEAP RAW MATERIALS AND BY THE CRUEL SACRIFICES OF OUR LABORERS. WE HAVE, IN ESSENCE, SUBSIDIZED THE PROGRESS AND THE OPULENCE OF THE GREAT POWERS IN EXCHANGE FOR

VERY LITTLE."

7 THE VENEZUELAN FONMIN WAS MORE CIRCUMSPECT IN AN INTERVIEW ON THE POPULAR TV PROGRAM "CONTACTO DIRECTO." HE SAID THAT THE SOLUTION TO LATIN AMERICA'S PROBLEMS LIES IN COOPERATION ON A REGIONAL LEVEL, BUT DID NOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY THAT ECONOMICALLY POWERFUL COUNTRIES ARE CREATING PROBLEMS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (ESPECIALLY OPEC MEMBERS) IN REPRISAL FOR THE DIFFICULTIES CAUSED BY HIGH OIL PRICES AND INSISTED THAT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ONLY VIABLE SOLUTION FOR THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES IS THE NIEO. CONSALVI LINKED POLITICAL INSTABILITY TO ECONOMIC STABILITY AND

MADE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN "RAPACIOUS" DICTATORSHIPS LIKE THAT OF PEREZ JIMENEZ AND "OTHER" MILITARY REGIMES MORE INTERESTED IN DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR COUNTRIES. HE DISCOUNTED THE POSSIBILITY THAT VENEZUELA, AS THE "RICH RELATIVE" OF LATIN AMERICA, COULD MATERIALLY HELP OTHER LESS PRIVILEGED HEMISPHERE COUNTRIES WITH THEIR DEBT BURDENS.

8. COMMENT: CONSALVI'S VISIT AND THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY BOTH FONMINS CONTAIN AN GOOD DEAL MORE SUBSTANCE THAN HAS BEEN THE CASE IN RECENT HIGH LEVEL PROTOCOLARY VISITS. THE CRITICISMS OF "INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES" AND "GREAT POWERS" EXPRESSED VERBALLY AND IN WRITING HAVE BEEN MORE EXPLICIT AND SHARP THAN ANY VISIT IN RECENT MEMORY. DESPITE THE APPARENT UNITY OF PURPOSE IN DENOUNCING WHAT ARE JUDGED TO BE UNFAIR ECONOMIC PRACTICES, PERU STANDS TO GAIN LITTLE FROM THIS MOST RECENT STRENGTHENING OF TIES, AS IS EVIDENT IN CONSALVI'S REMARKS ON "CONTACTO DIRECTO." THE VENEZUELAN FONMIN'S PRAISE OF THE PROGRESSIVE PERUVIAN MILGOV AND ITS OPENING TO DEMOCRACY IS WELCOME FARE FOR THE BESIEGED MORALES BERMUDEZ GOVERNMENT. DESPITE THE EVIDENT HARMONY, HOWEVER, WE SENSE THAT THE GOP WAS RATHER UNCOMFORTABLE WITH CONSALVI'S SOMEWHAT PATRONIZING ATTITUDE.

9. WE HAVE A REPORT THAT CONSALVI TOOK BACK WITH HIM A HAND WRITTEN NOTE FROM MORALES BERMUDEZ TO CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ INVITING THE LATTER TO VISIT PERU. PURPORTEDLY THE INVITATION WAS INSPIRED BY THE APRA LEADER ARMANDO VILLANUEVA.

DECON 8/28/79. SHLAUDEMAN

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